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DARMAN
White House staff

PIPES
Adviser on Kremlin

Harvard prof. to be Reagan's Soviet expert

By Rachelle Patterson
Globe Staff

WASHINGTON — Harvard Prof. Richard Pipes, a historian who takes a hard-line view of Kremlin power, will be named the National Security Council's specialist on the Soviet Union.

Pipes the author of several books on the Soviet Union, headed a group of outside specialists during the Ford Administration who contended that Moscow was striving not just for strategic parity with the United States but for nuclear superiority. The advisers, known as the "B team," said the intelligence community grossly underestimated the Soviet buildup and urged an increase in the American military program.

Sources at the Reagan transition confirmed that Pipes, who worked with national security adviser-designate Richard Allen on foreign policy during the campaign, will join the National Security Council as its Soviet specialist.

While the NSC for the new White House is beginning to take shape, the overall appointments process for the administration seems to be behind schedule, with many of the more than 200 major posts still unfilled as inaugural day approaches next Tuesday.

One of those jockeying for a job is Prof. William R. Van Cleave, a defense-policy analyst at the University of Southern California, who lost out in a bid to become deputy to Defense Secretary-designate Caspar Weinberger. Van Cleave, a conservative who worked with Allen during the campaign, may get a National Security Council post as well.

Among those announced for posts yesterday was Richard G. Darman to be deputy assistant to the President. A former aide to Elliott Richardson at the Commerce Department and other posts, Darman has been a lecturer in public policy and management at Harvard University for the past four years. He was graduated from Harvard in 1964 and received his master's degree from the business school three years later.

Darman will serve as White House staff secretary and as a deputy to chief of staff-designate James Baker 3d. As such, he will give advice on issues and oversee the management support systems of the White House. Darman was raised in Massachusetts and his parents live in Lincoln.

Pipes' appointment represents a change in the way Soviet expertise is acquired. Under the Carter Administration, the outside Soviet specialists, Marshall Shulman of Columbia University, was ensconced at the State Department. But under Reagan's reorganization of the NSC, there will be a place for the council's own Soviet specialists.